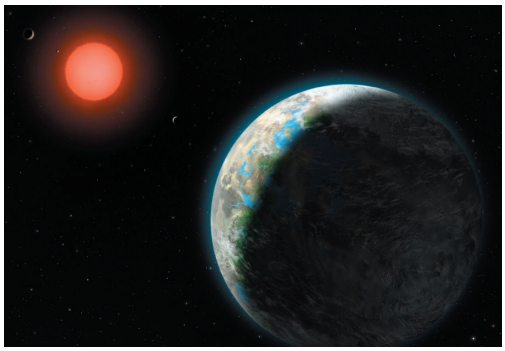
# *UFO's, Loose Nukes, and a Not-So-Distant Star System . . .*

By Clark Thomas

Skeptical about UFOs? A thoughtful soul would be both curious and skeptical about something so significant, but with such elusive evidence. Now comes a panel of nuclear-trained former military officers who had their hands on the button. Information going back as far as the 1940s, and very strong in the 1960s and at other times, points to highly agile saucers showing a strong interest in nuclear facilities and rocket launching sites, both in the USSR and the USA. There is new testimony about nuclear rockets sometimes being disabled (and what's wrong that?).

What does this all mean? If these UFOs exist, are their intentions benign and wise, or evil? Why are they so fixated on our nukes? Don't they want us to self-annihilate, so they can easily colonize this blue orb for their own blue-gray kind?

Questions greatly outnumber answers, or even reliable public data. To see for yourself a video of what this latest buzz is all about, go to: **http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/us/2010/09/29/am.ufo.hastings.cnn?hpt=T2**



The big rap against galactic travel has always been the immense distances involved. Science fiction has tried to get around these limits by talking about worm holes, warp factors, multidimensions, and other highly speculative short cuts. What is needed for a reasonably convincing UFO scenario would appear to be some sort of high-level civilization "nearby." Even with light speed, it would take almost nine years for one round trip to our nearest star.

Now there appears to be the best candidate Earthlike planet, so far. **Gliese 581g** is within the already famous system of Gliese 581, a red dwarf one third the mass of our Sun. That just means this dwarf's habitable zone is closer to its surface. It's "just" 20 l.y. away — hard for us, but easy for UFOs checking out our nukes.

A habitable zone is where water on a planet could remain liquid. Unlike hot gas giants, such a planet slightly larger than Earth should be rocky at its surface, which could support a nice ocean or two. Life? Who knows? Advanced life? Unlikely, but increasingly possible over a long time; and red dwarfs last much longer than main sequence stars.

Here's the *Time* magazine article that inspired your editor to write this brief essay: **http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,2022489,00.html?hpt=T2**